

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

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9

Enter The Exotic And Exciting World Of...

KNUCKLES™

THE ECHIDNA

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



DIRECT EDITION

GALAN
PENDERS '9

Dennis Moore
HERO

GNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-SEVEN THE FIRST DATE

PART TWO OF THREE

KEN PENDERS

WRITER

CHRIS ALLAN

PENCILER

ANDREW PEPOY

INKER

FRANK GAGLIARDO

COLORIST

VICKIE WILLIAMS

LETTERER

J.F. GABRIE

EDITOR / ART DIRECTOR

VICTOR GORELICK

MANAGING EDITOR

RICHARD GOLDWATER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... *GNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!*

OUR STORY THUS FAR...

UPON HEARING OF CHARMY'S ENGAGEMENT TO SAFRON, VECTOR IS CHALLENGED BY THE CHAOTIX TO LAND HIMSELF A DATE. MEANWHILE, JULIE-SU IS IN A FUNK ABOUT HER UNCERTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH GNUCKLES AND ENDS UP MEETING RAYNOR, A SON TO THE MORE PROMINENT ECHIDNA LINEAGES. AS FOR GNUCKLES, HE FINDS HIMSELF ASKING ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES, IN PARTICULAR HIS FEELINGS FOR JULIE-SU, AND DECIDES TO TAKE ACTION...

ARCHY!

HAS YOUR ANTENNAE SCRAMBLED THE RECEPTION TO YOUR BRAIN?!

WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU BRING US TO THIS HIGH-FALOOTIN' HANG OUT?!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH JULIE-SU, M'BOY!

SHE'S OVER THERE!

OHMYGOSH!!!! SHE'S GONNA SEE ME IF I STAY HERE!!!

WELL, YES! THAT'S A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY!

HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPECT TO TELL HER WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

ARE YOU NUTS?!!

NOT IN THIS PLACE!!

OH, I DON'T KNOW!

THE LOCALE SEEMS AN AGREEABLE CHOICE TO ME!

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, RAYNOR? YOU JUST ZONED OUT ON ME!

MY APOLOGIES, JULIE-SU--

"-- BUT I WAS JUST DISTRACTED BY THE SIGHT OF SOME POOR LOST SOUL OFF NEAR THE KITCHEN!"

SHE'S TURNING AROUND, ARCHY!

I GOTTA DUCK OUTTA SIGHT!



WHY, YOU'RE THE
GUARDIAN!!

IT'S BEEN A
LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE
SERVED ANYONE OF YOUR
STATURE!

PLEASE PARDON
MY SUPREME
IGNORANCE!

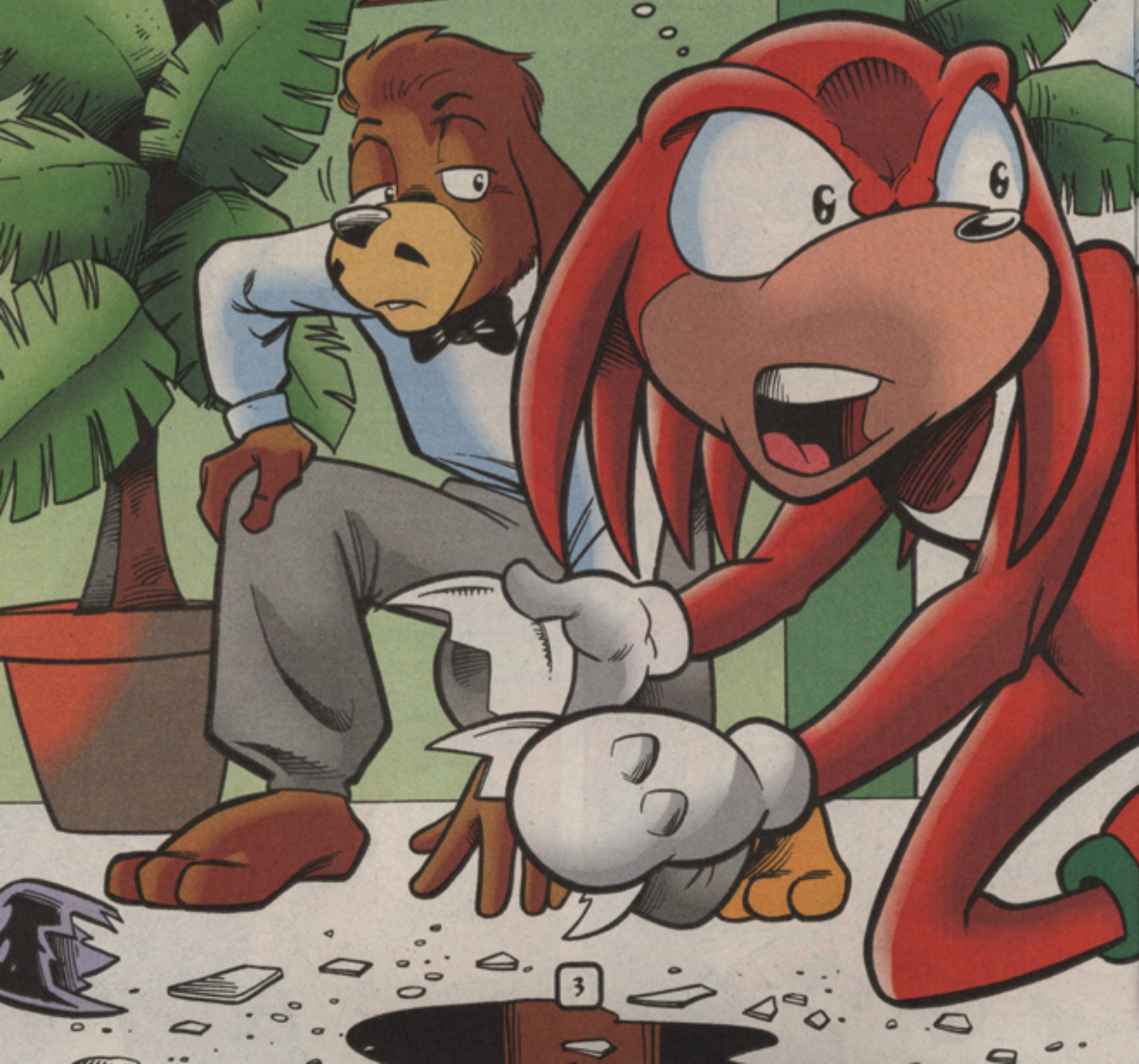
I'LL HAVE ONE
OF THE HIRED HELP
CLEAN THAT!

ON SECOND
THOUGHT, ALLOW
ME!

NO! NO!
IT WAS MY
FAULT!

I CAN
CLEAN IT
UP!

HOPEFULLY
BEFORE
ANYONE ELSE
SEES OR
RECOGNIZES
ME!



Who Wrote The
BOOK OF LOVE
Anyway?



WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME, RAYNOR?

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

BUT, OF COURSE!



NONSENSE!

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE OUR HONORED GUEST!

KNUCKLES! INCOMING AT TWELVE O' CLOCK!

WHA--?



ARCHY! I CAN'T LET JULIE-SU SEE ME LIKE THIS!

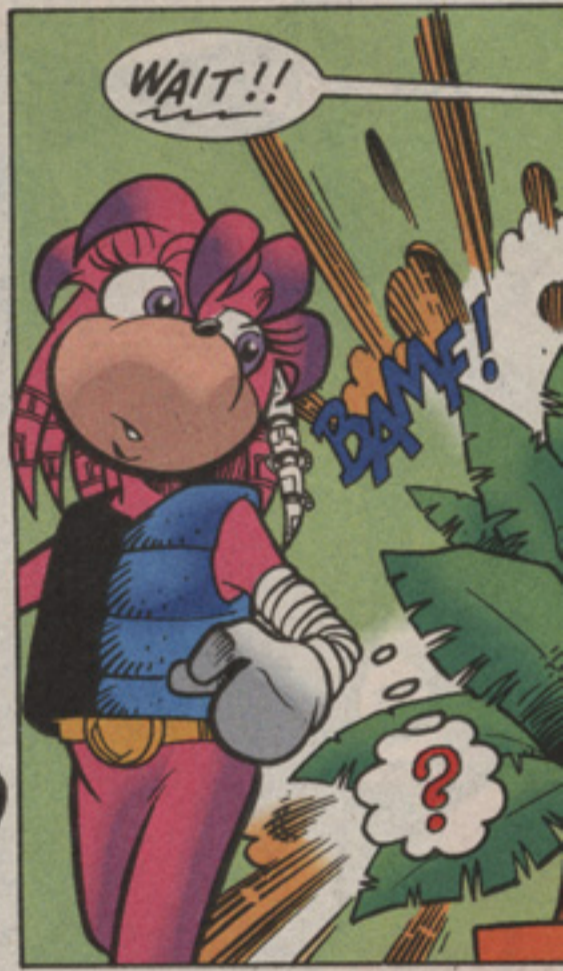
WHY NOT?

MAYBE SHE'LL TAKE PITY ON YOU!



YEAH! RIGHT! JUST WHAT I NEED!

C'MON, BE A PAL!



WAIT!!

BAM!

?



YES, MADAM! MAY I HELP YOU?

I COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOMEONE I KNOW!

I GUESS I WAS MISTAKEN--

--NOT!



AND IF IT WAS--

I'D BET ANYTHING THAT WAS KNUCKLES' VOICE!

"--HE'S SURE GOING TO HEAR AN EARFUL FROM ME!"

I DON'T GET IT, ARCHY!

I'M READY TO BUTT HEADS WITH THE *BADDEST* *HARDCASES* AROUND--

--YET WHEN IT COMES TO ONE SINGLE *GIRL*--

--I TURN TO *JELLO!*

GO *FIGURE!*

YOU *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?

UNLIKE WE *FIRE-ANTS*, YOU *ECHIDNAS* HAVEN'T A *ROMANTIC BONE* IN YOUR BODY!

THAT'S WHY *NATURE* STEPPED IN AND PROVIDED THE *SOULTOUCH* TO HELP YOU ALONG!

YEAH, SO MY *DAD* SAYS!

WONDER IF HE HAD IT THIS *BAD* OVER *MOM*?

YOU'D BE *SURPRISED!*

PROBABLY NO MORE SO THAN IF I DISCOVERED ONE OF THE *GLIYS* WAS *DATING* SOMEONE!

SPEAKING OF WHICH--

VIDEO 1

GAM

"--LOOK WHO JUST MADE THE SCENE!"

OH--FATHER!

HAVE YOU SEEN KNUCKLES AROUND LATELY?

NOT SINCE DINNER LAST NIGHT! WHY?

IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?

NO! NOT AT ALL!

WE WERE JUST HAVING BREAKFAST, I HAD TO STEP OUT OF THE ROOM--

--AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW-- HE WAS GONE!

YOU DON'T THINK--?

I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM!

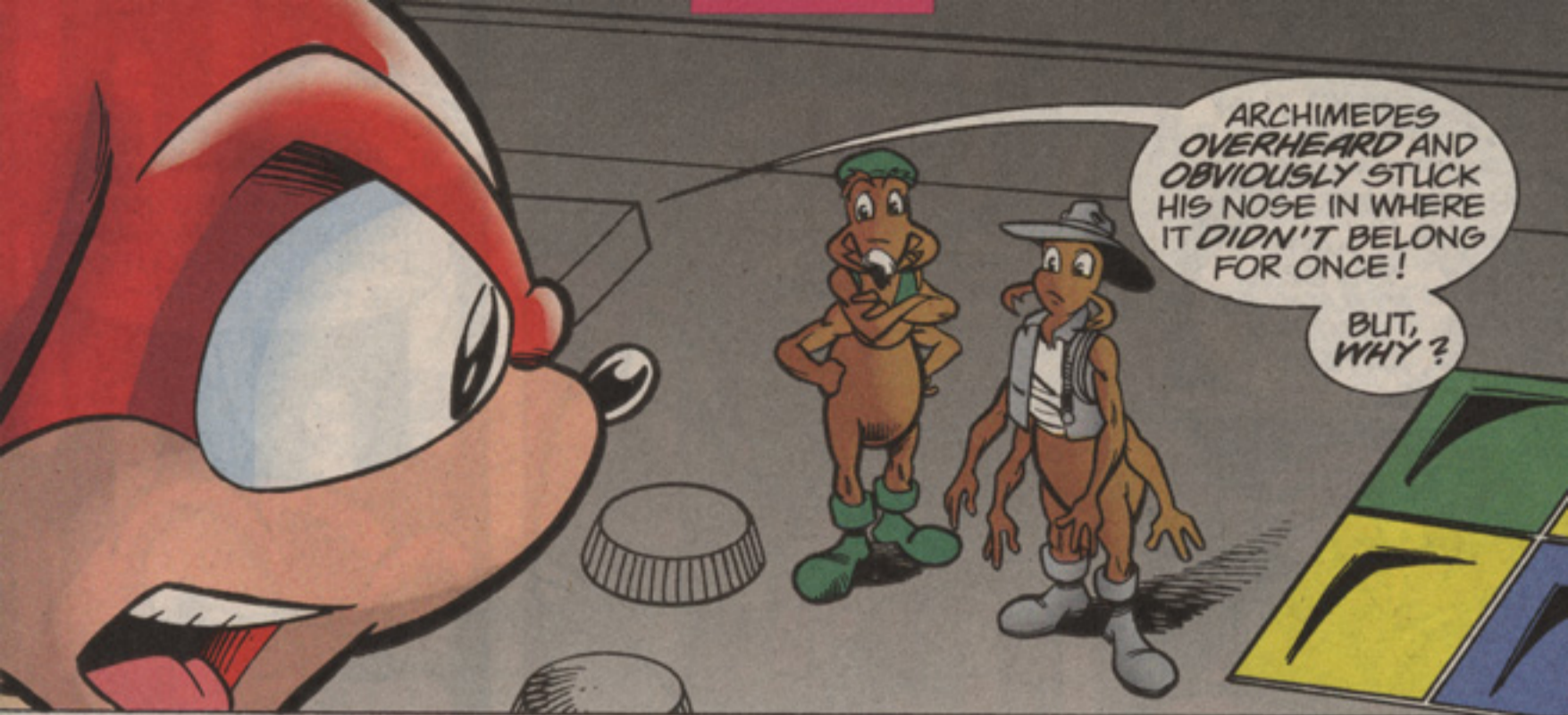
PUT WHAT PAST WHO?

YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WHAT I THINK YOU ARE, ARE YOU?

THAT DEPENDS ON WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE THINKING!

YOU CAN'T HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT!

THIS IS ABOUT WHAT KNUCKLES WAS DISCUSSING WITH ME, ISN'T IT?



ARCHIMEDES OVERHEARD AND OBVIOUSLY STUCK HIS NOSE IN WHERE IT DIDN'T BELONG FOR ONCE!

BUT, WHY?



MAYBE HE GOT THE IDEA THAT IF HE DIDN'T PLAY MATCHMAKER, KNUCKLES WOULD END UP A SWINGING SINGLE LIKE YOU!

FATHER!

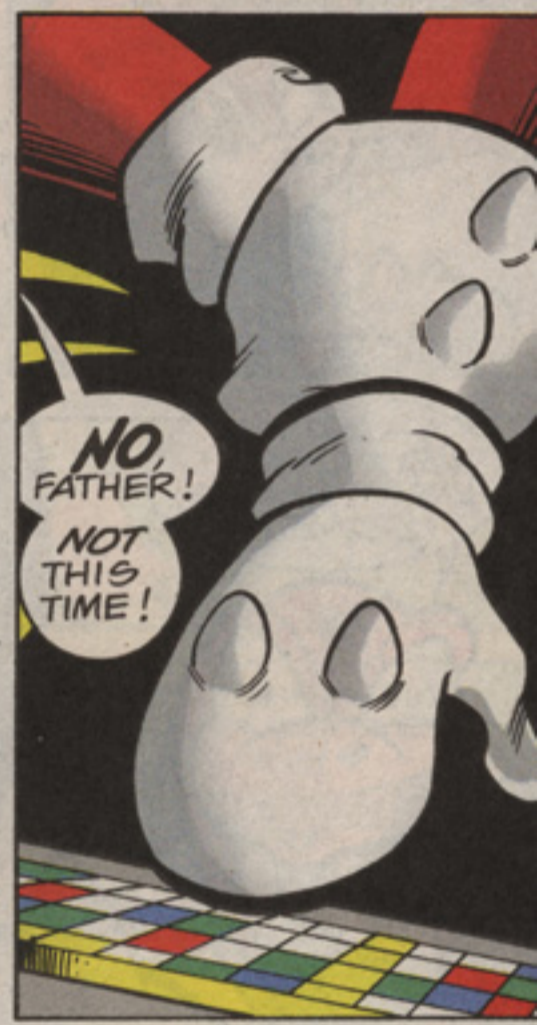
THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR!



DEO MAY BE BLUNT, BUT HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING I HAVEN'T CONSIDERED!

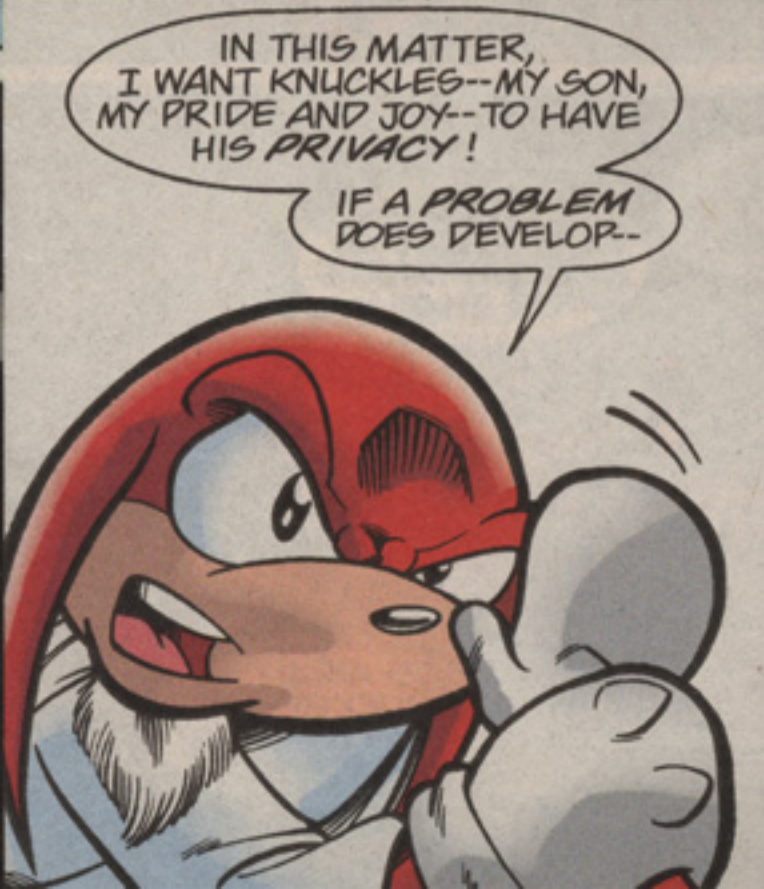
WHAT I FIND QUESTIONABLE IS THE COMPANY KNUCKLES KEEPS!

FORTUNATELY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEARN--



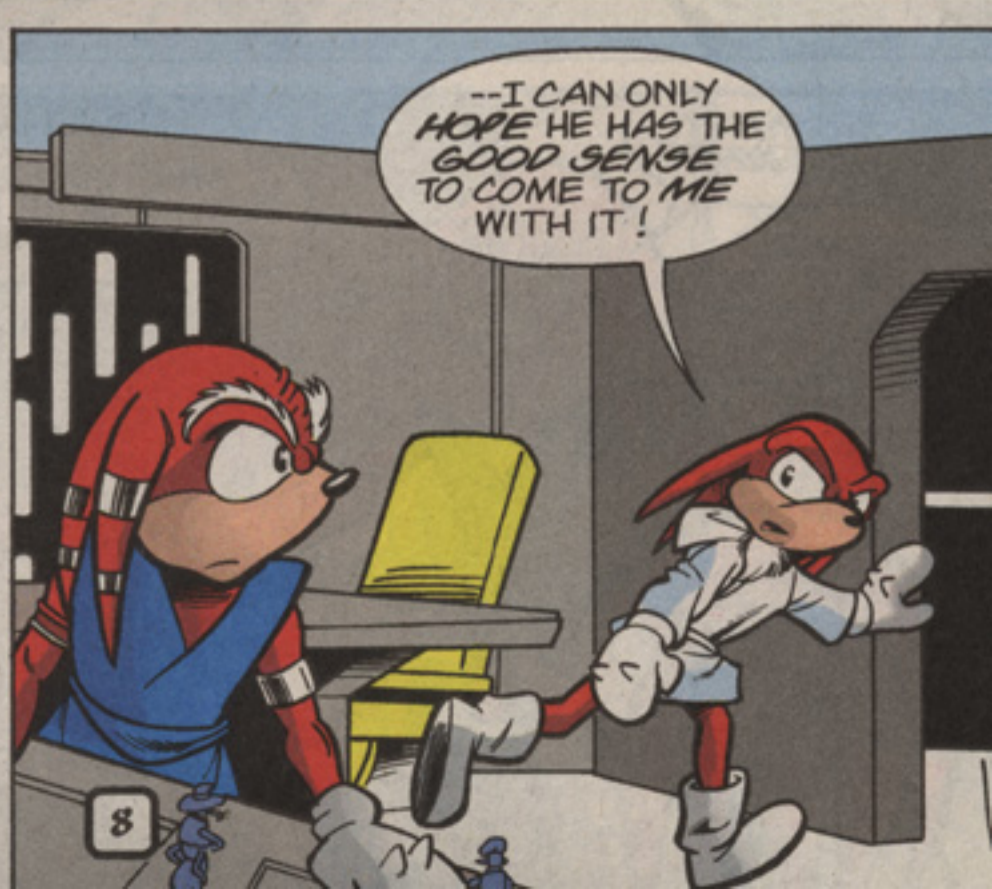
NO, FATHER!

NOT THIS TIME!

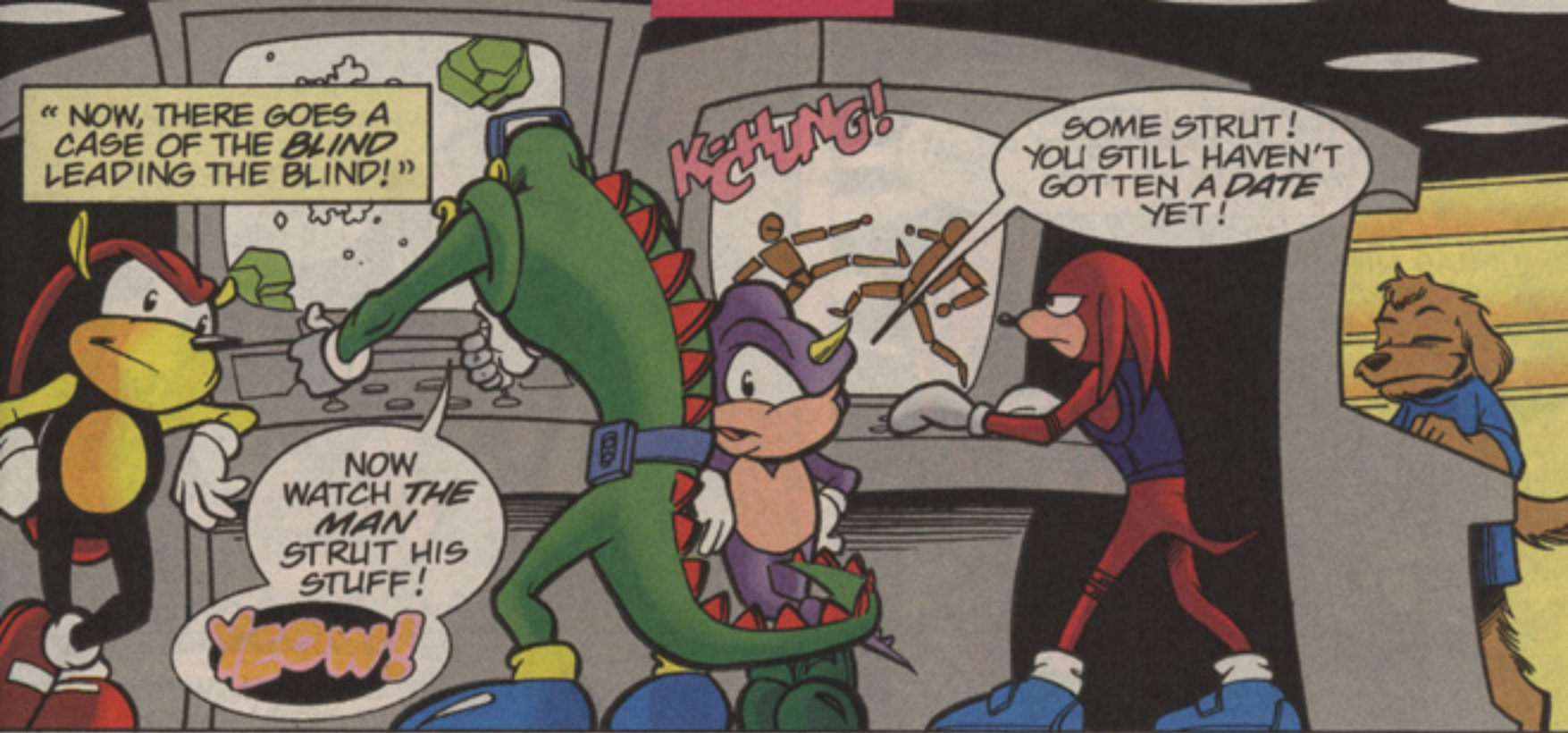


IN THIS MATTER, I WANT KNUCKLES--MY SON, MY PRIDE AND JOY--TO HAVE HIS PRIVACY!

IF A PROBLEM DOES DEVELOP--



--I CAN ONLY HOPE HE HAS THE GOOD SENSE TO COME TO ME WITH IT!



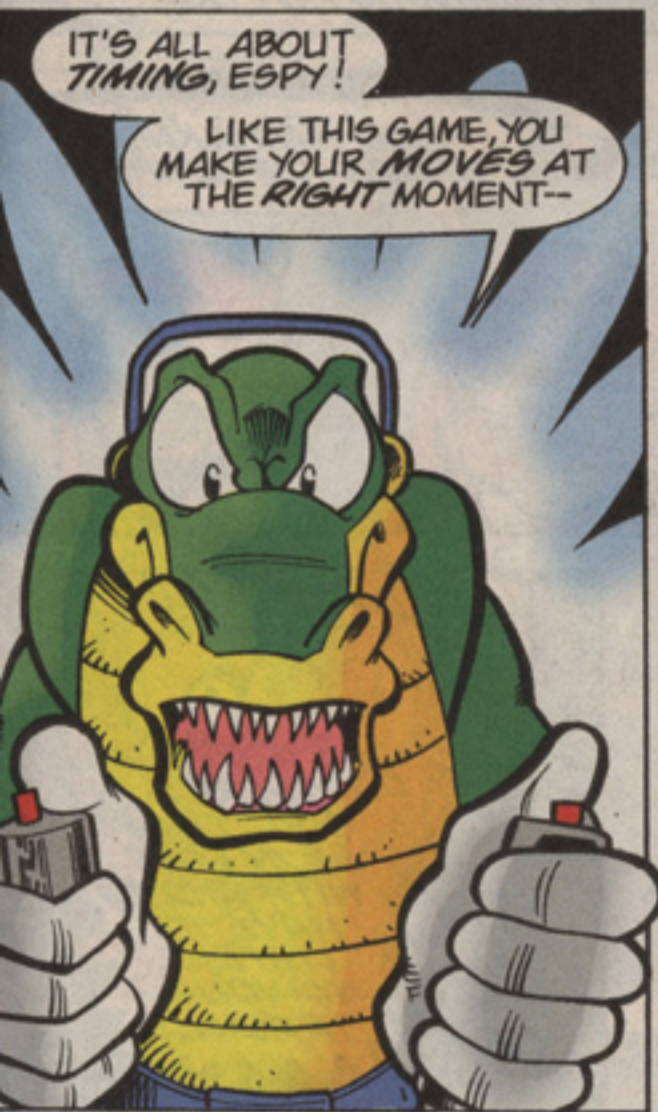
"NOW, THERE GOES A CASE OF THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND!"

KCHUNG!

SOME STRUT! YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN A DATE YET!

NOW WATCH THE MAN STRUT HIS STUFF!

YEOW!



IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING, ESPY!

LIKE THIS GAME, YOU MAKE YOUR MOVES AT THE RIGHT MOMENT--



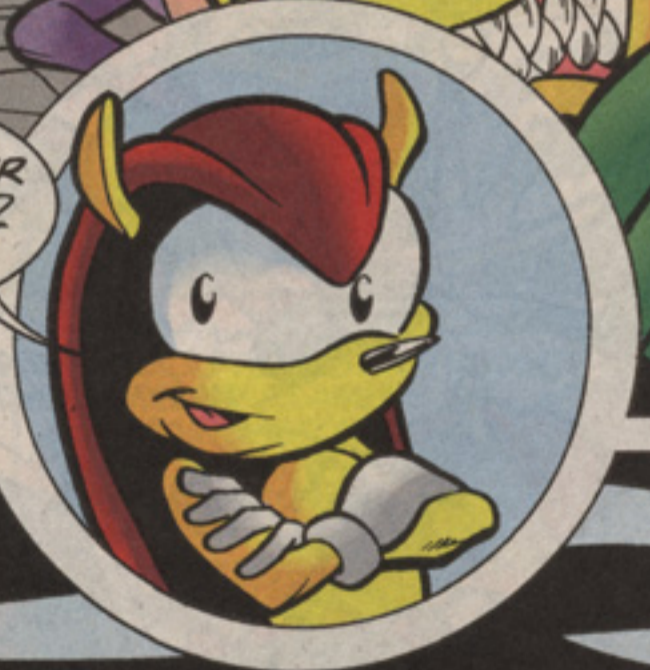
-- AND YOU END UP SCORING BIG-TIME!

CIRCUITS AND KNOBS ARE ONE THING, VECTOR--

-- BUT A GIRL IS QUITE ANOTHER!

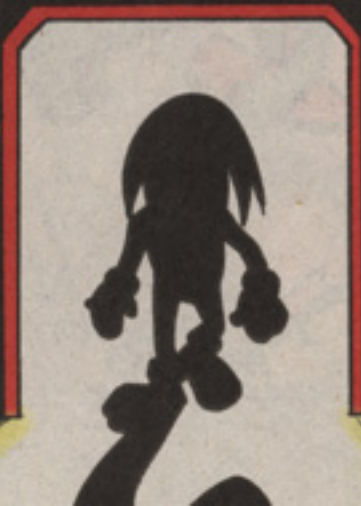
YEAH!

TELL A GIRL YOU CONSIDER HER A PLAYTHING AND SEE WHERE THAT GETS YOU!



LOOK AT KNUCKLES, FOR INSTANCE!

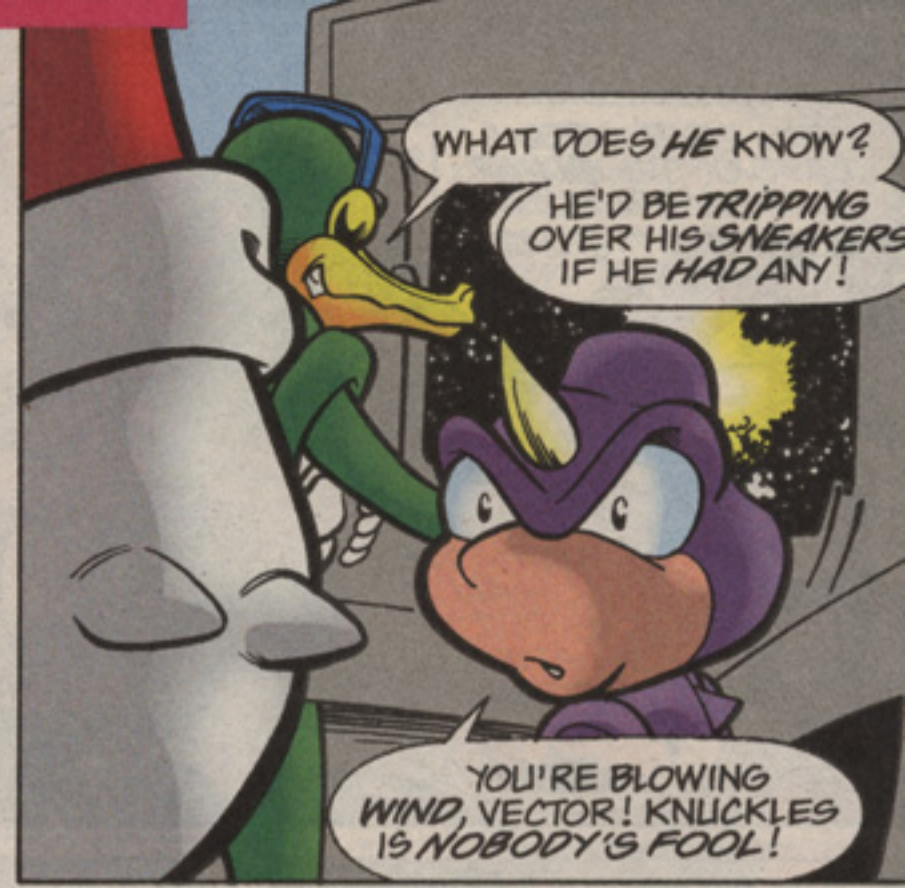
WHAT ABOUT HIM?





I NEVER SEE HIM TREAT JULIE-SU ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY HE DOES US!

THE HOMEBOY HAS HIS WIRES CROSSED, IF Y'ASK ME!



WHAT DOES HE KNOW?

HE'D BE TRIPPING OVER HIS SNEAKERS IF HE HAD ANY!

YOU'RE BLOWING WIND, VECTOR! KNUCKLES IS NOBODY'S FOOL!

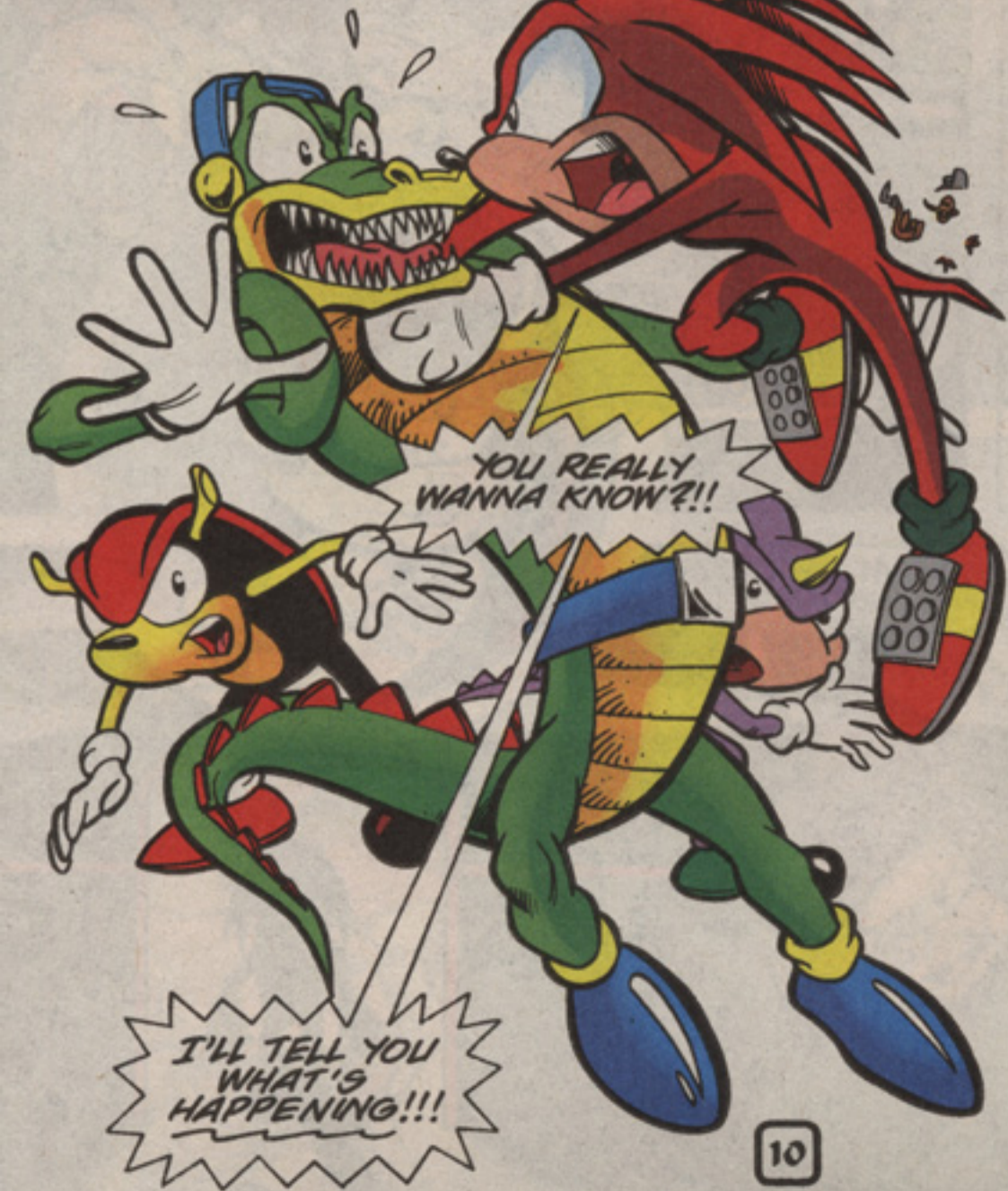


HAH! IF SHE HAD HIM WRAPPED ANY TIGHTER, HE'D SNAP!

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

SAY, KNUX! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?!



YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?!!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!



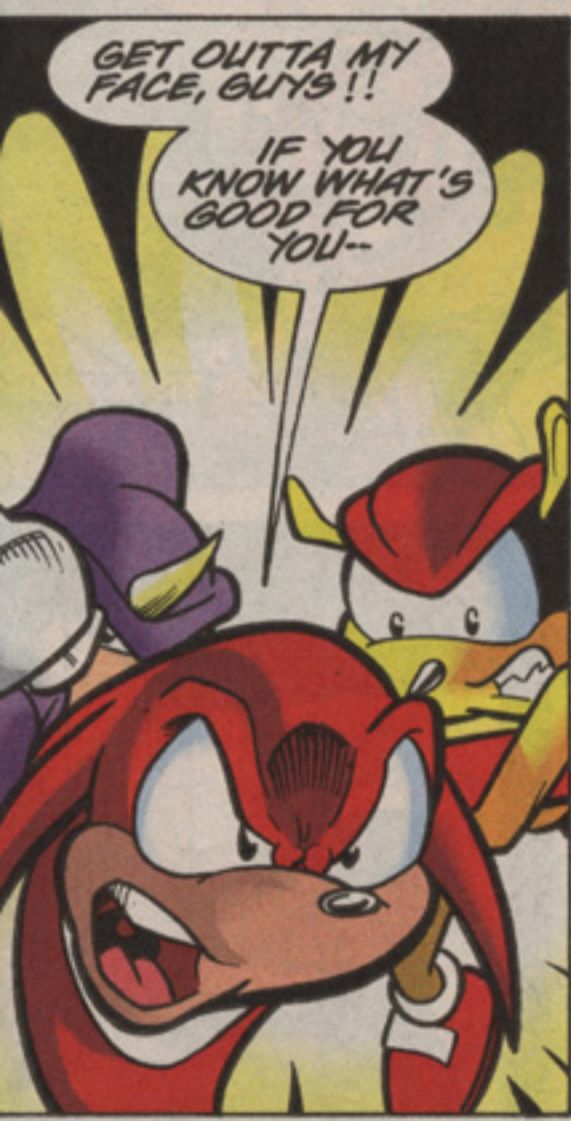
THERE'S A GIRL I MAY BE IN LOVE WITH AND I HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR TRASH!!!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST--GET--OFF--MY--CASE, YOU--CRAZY--CROC!!!



EASY, KNUCKLES! CHILL!!

VECTOR DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!



GET OUTTA MY FACE, GUYS!!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU--



AND YOU KNOW HOW VECTOR RUNS OFF AT THE MOUTH!

LET IT GO, MAN!

I'D ISSUE A KING-SIZED APOLOGY RIGHT ABOUT NOW IF I WERE IN YOUR SHOES, YEC!



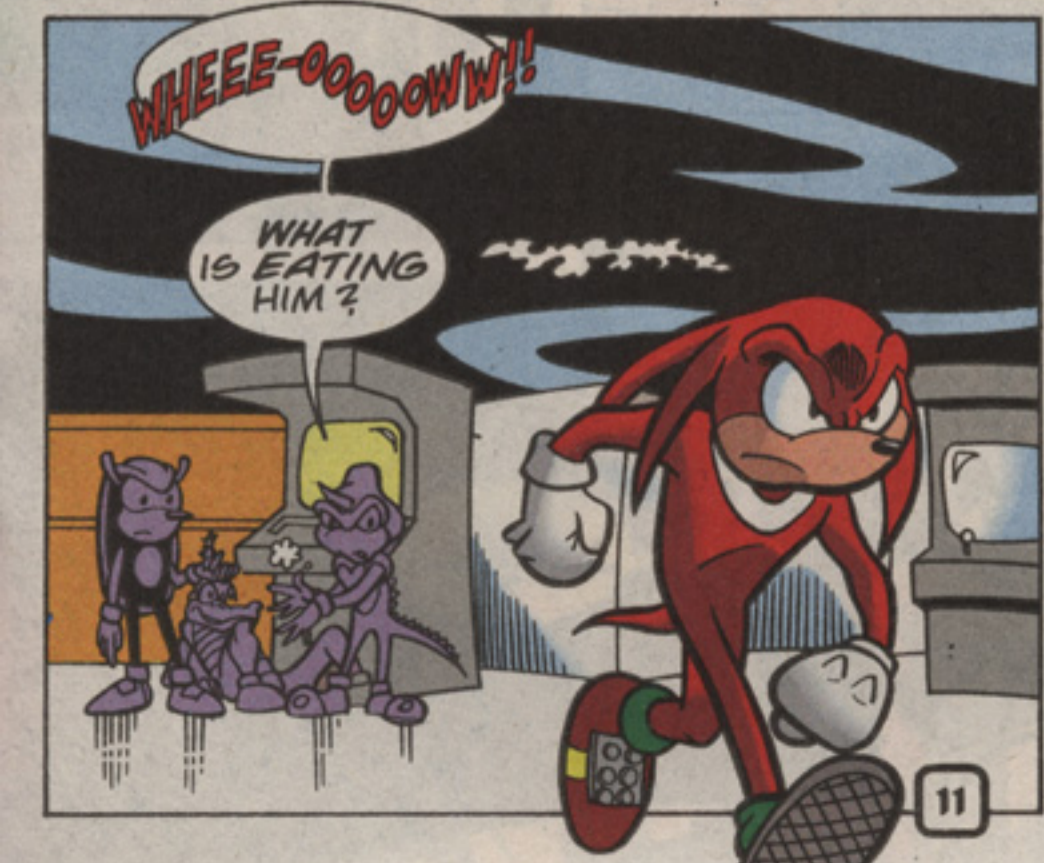
HEY, KNUX!

DIDN'T MEAN TO RAZZ YOU!

I JUST GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY, 'S ALL!

SORRY!

STUFF IT, VECTOR!!



WHEEE-OOOOOWW!!

WHAT IS EATING HIM?

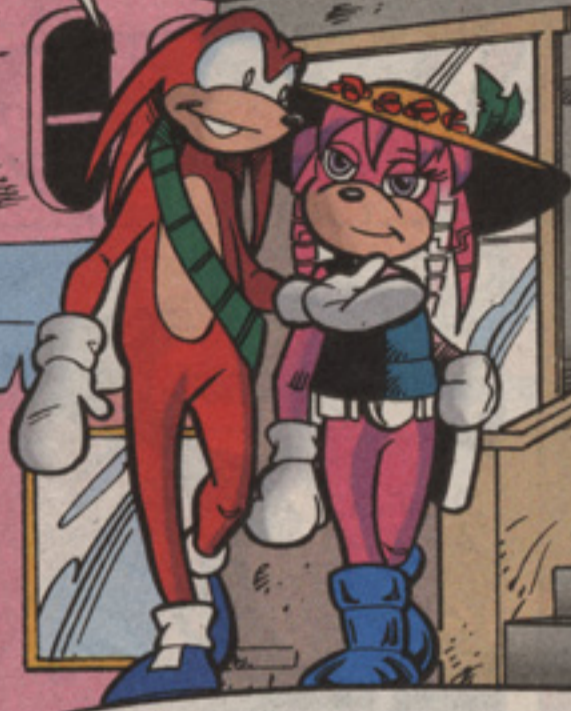


WHAT YOU'VE JUST WITNESSED IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF ECHIDNAOPHYLLUS ENRAPTURITIS, OR IN LAYMAN'S TERMS--

"--THAT BOY IS ONE
LOVESICK PUPPY!"

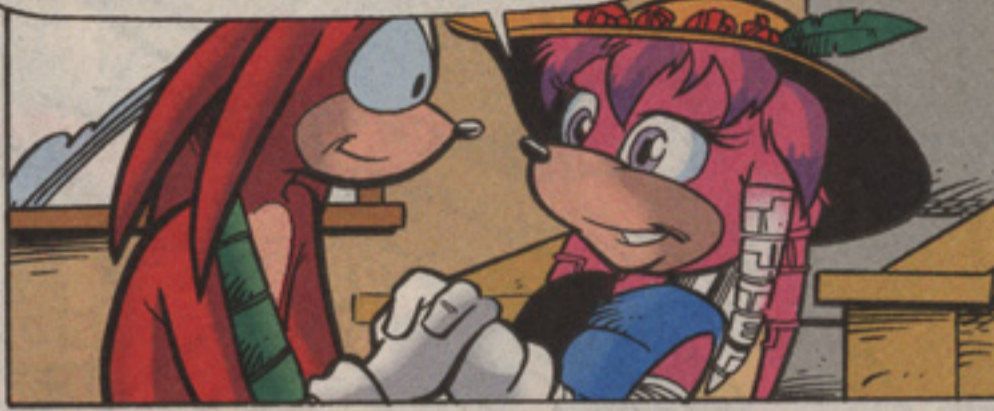
I HAD
A REALLY
GREAT TIME,
JULIE-SU!

I WOULDN'T
MIND REPEATING THE
EXPERIENCE!



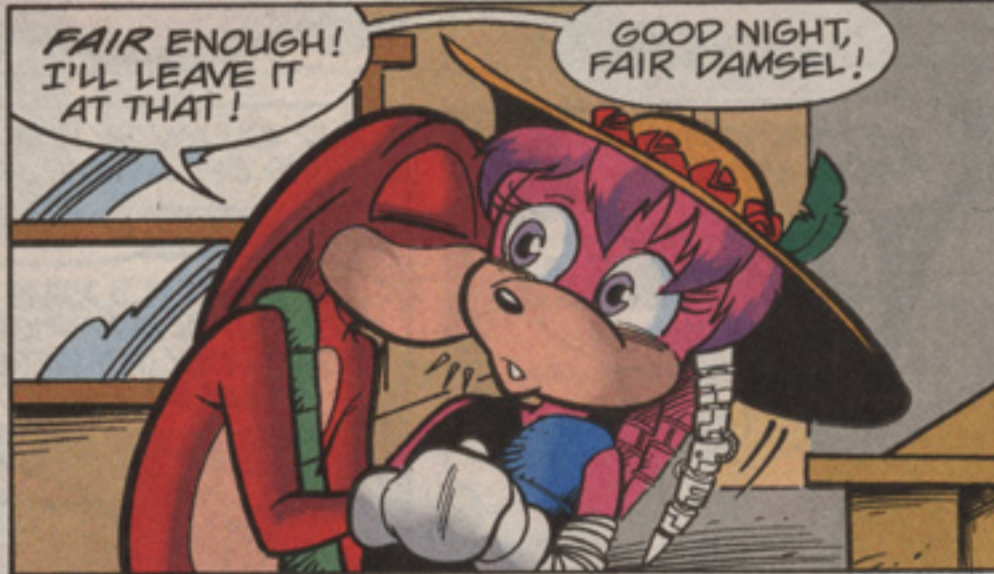
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I DIDN'T
ENJOY MYSELF OR THAT THE COMPANY
I KEPT WASN'T WONDERFUL!

ANYTHING'S
POSSIBLE!

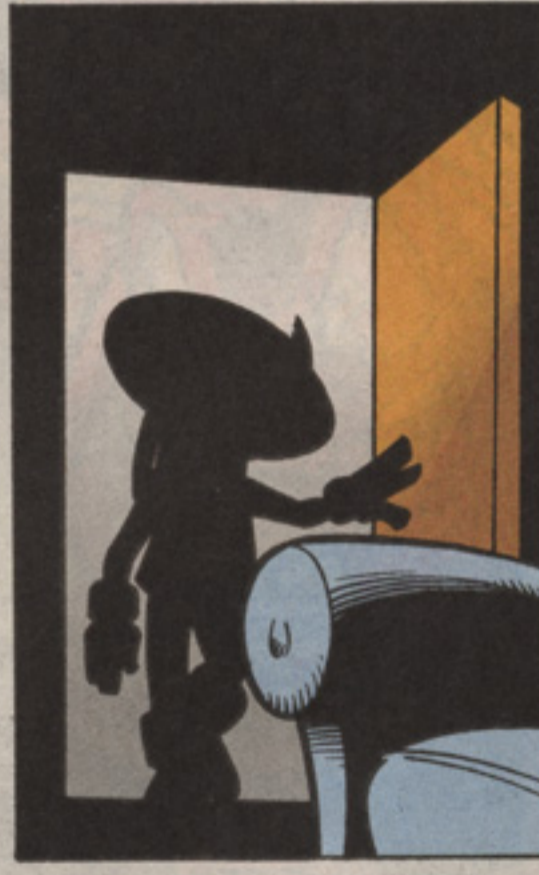
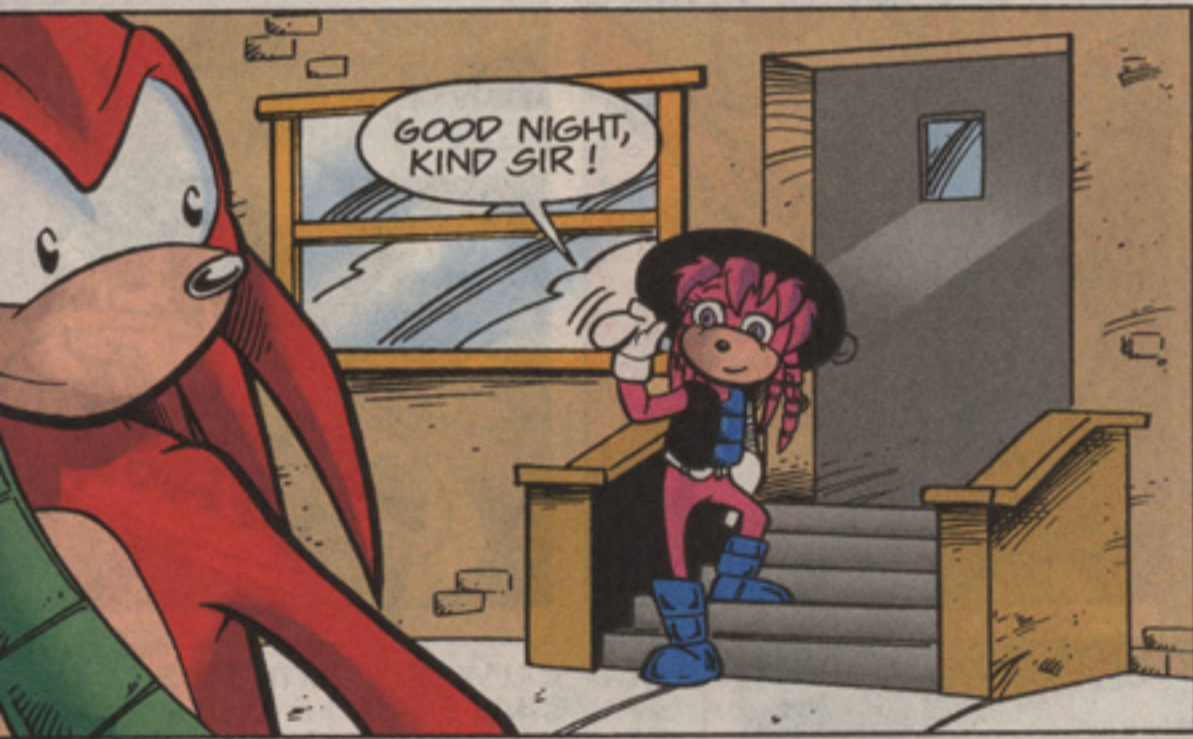


FAIR ENOUGH!
I'LL LEAVE IT
AT THAT!

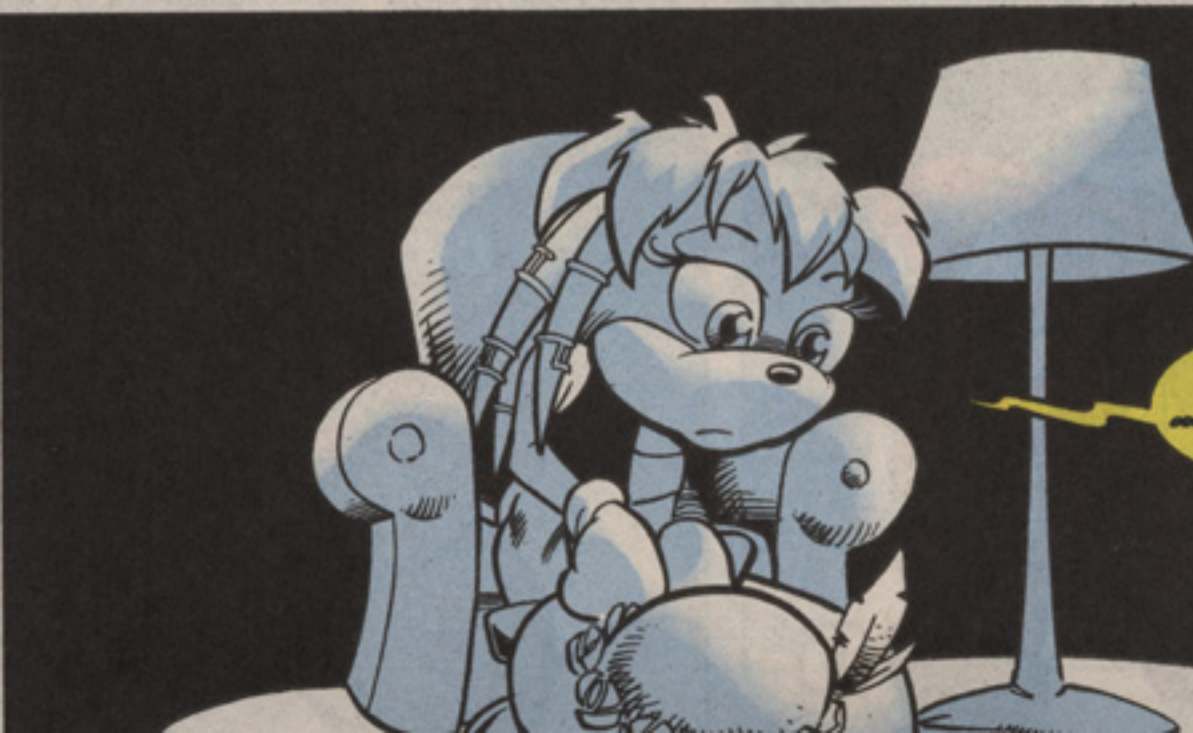
GOOD NIGHT,
FAIR DAMSEL!



GOOD NIGHT,
KIND SIR!



sigh



"JUST MY LUCK!
THE ONE THAT
WANTS ME
ISN'T THE
ONE I WANT..."

NO TWO WAYS
ABOUT IT!

I REALLY
LOST IT BACK
THERE!

AND IF IT WERE
ANYONE BUT VECTOR,
I MIGHT FEEL INCLINED
TO APOLOGIZE--

--BUT HE
DEFINITELY
HAD THAT
COMING!

IT'S ABOUT TIME
HE GOT OVER IT AND OFF
OF JULIE SU'S CASE!

SAY!

IF I
EVER NEEDED
SOMEONE TO
TALK TO--

--MAYBE GETTING MOM'S
PERSPECTIVE MIGHT NOT BE
SUCH A BAD THING!

I MEAN--
SHE'S A GIRL--
JUST LIKE
JULIE-SU
IS!

EVENING, YOUNG
GUARDIAN!

HERE
TO SEE YOUR
MOTHER?

AH-- er--
NO!

JUST
PASSING
BY!

WHO'S KIDDING
WHO?

ALL I'M DOING
IS PUTTING OFF THE
INEVITABLE!

EITHER I
ASK HER--



--OR I GO NUTS!

STRANGE!

I WOULD SWEAR THAT LOOKS LIKE KNUCKLES!

A GEMSTONE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, DARLING!

WYN!

I'M SORRY! I WAS JUST THINKING!



A BLIND MAN COULD SEE THAT, DARLING!

ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON YOUR MIND?

I WAS MAINLY THINKING ABOUT KNUCKLES!



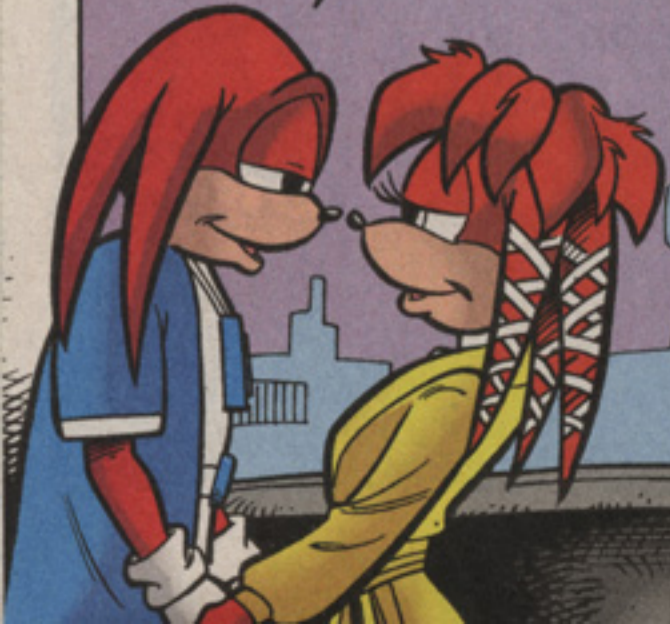
HE HASN'T SAID MUCH SINCE WE ANNOUNCED OUR INTENTION TO BE MARRIED!*

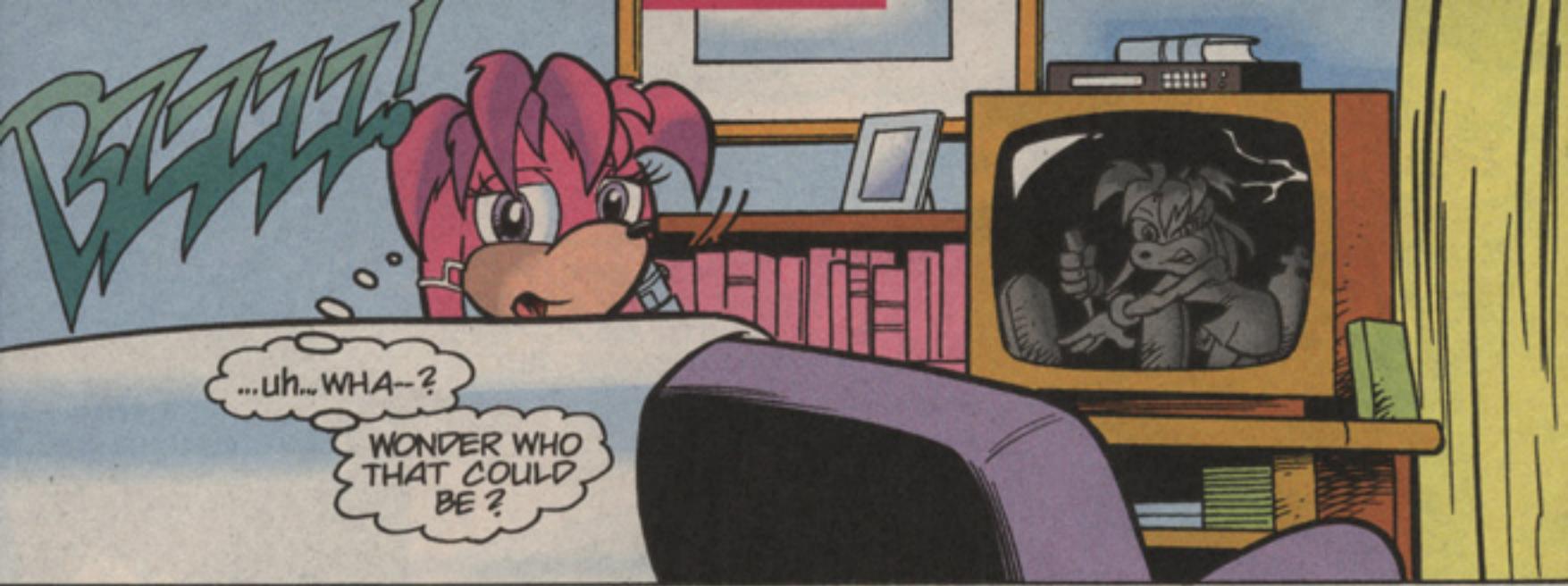
I KEEP WONDERING IF MAYBE WE'RE MOVING FASTER THAN HE CAN HANDLE AT THIS TIME!

* ISSUE # 16 -- SOCIETY PAGE EDITOR JUSTIN.

NOBODY HAS SET A DATE, DEAR LARA! I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY TO WAIT AS LONG AS NECESSARY!

WE'LL STILL HAVE EACH OTHER IN THE MEANTIME!





...uh... WHA--?
 WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE?



I WAS WONDERING IF THE LADY OF THE HOUSE IS DOING ANYTHING THIS WEEKEND!



SHE MAY--OR SHE MAY NOT BE! THAT ALL DEPENDS!
 DEPENDS ON WHAT?
 DEPENDS ON WHATEVER YOU WISH TO ASK!



MAKE THIS HARDER, WHY DON'T YOU?
 WELL...er...um... IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING FRIDAY EVENING, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON A DATE--
 -- WITH ME, THAT IS!



UH, ANYTHING SPECIAL YOU HAVE IN MIND?
 I HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT, YET!
 I JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK YOU AND GO FROM THERE!
 OKAY, THEN! FRIDAY NIGHT'S A DATE!



YESSSSSSSS!
 GREAT! I'LL SEE YOU THEN!
 I'LL BE HERE AT SIX!
 CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

**SHE SAID
YES!**

NOW WHAT DO I DO?
WHERE DO I TAKE HER? WHAT
DOES SHE LIKE TO DO?

THIS IS CRAZY!
I JUST ASKED SOMEONE TO
GO OUT WITH ME AND I HAVEN'T
A CLUE HOW TO ACT!

MAYBE THIS
WAS A BAD
IDEA!

HE SAID
YES!

FINALLY!

WHATEVER HAPPENS,
HAPPENS! AS LONG AS
WE'RE TOGETHER!

It's **GRUNCH TIME**,
gang, but will our
boy come through
in the clinch?
We'll find out
NEXT ISSUE!!

MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO

112

Those Were The Days...

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN INTO?

NIC THE WEASEL OFFERS TO HELP ME LOCATE RAY THE SQUIRREL--

--IN EXCHANGE FOR HELPING HER LOCATE THE GEMSTONES MINED IN ROBOTNIK'S SLAVE LABOR CAMPS!

BUT NOW, I'M CONFRONTED BY A GHOST FROM THE PAST--

FIONA FOX!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE--

WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS
ILLUSTRATED BY MANNY GALAN
AND ANDREW PEPOY
COLORED BY BARRY GROSSMAN
LETTERED BY VICKIE WILLIAMS
EDITED BY J. F. GABRIE

--DEAD?!!
HARDLY!

AND NO THANKS
TO YOU OR THE
HEDGEHOG!

THAT'S
NOT
FAIR,
FIONA!

MAYBE SONIC AND I
WEREN'T ABLE TO SAVE
EVERYONE, BUT WE
DID THE BEST
WE COULD!

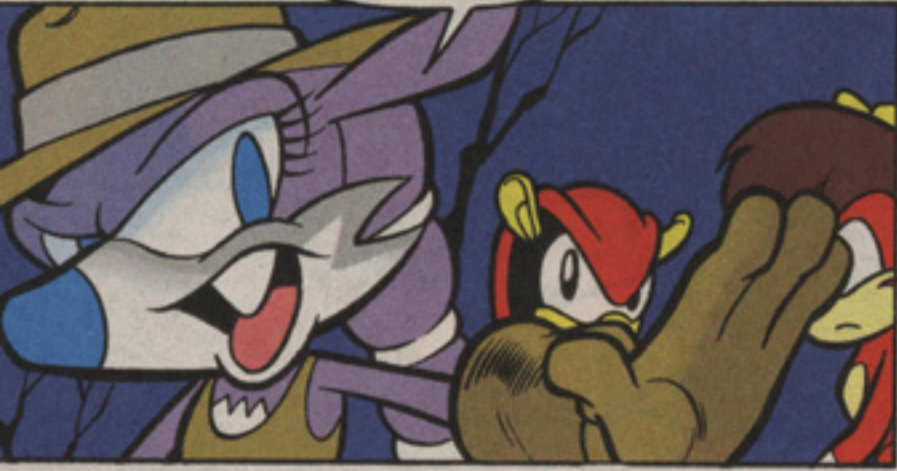
THAT'S YOUR
VERSION, MIGHTY!

CUT IT OUT,
YOU TWO--

--YOU WANT TO
HASH DIFFERENCES,
DO IT ON YOUR OWN
TIME!

C'MON!

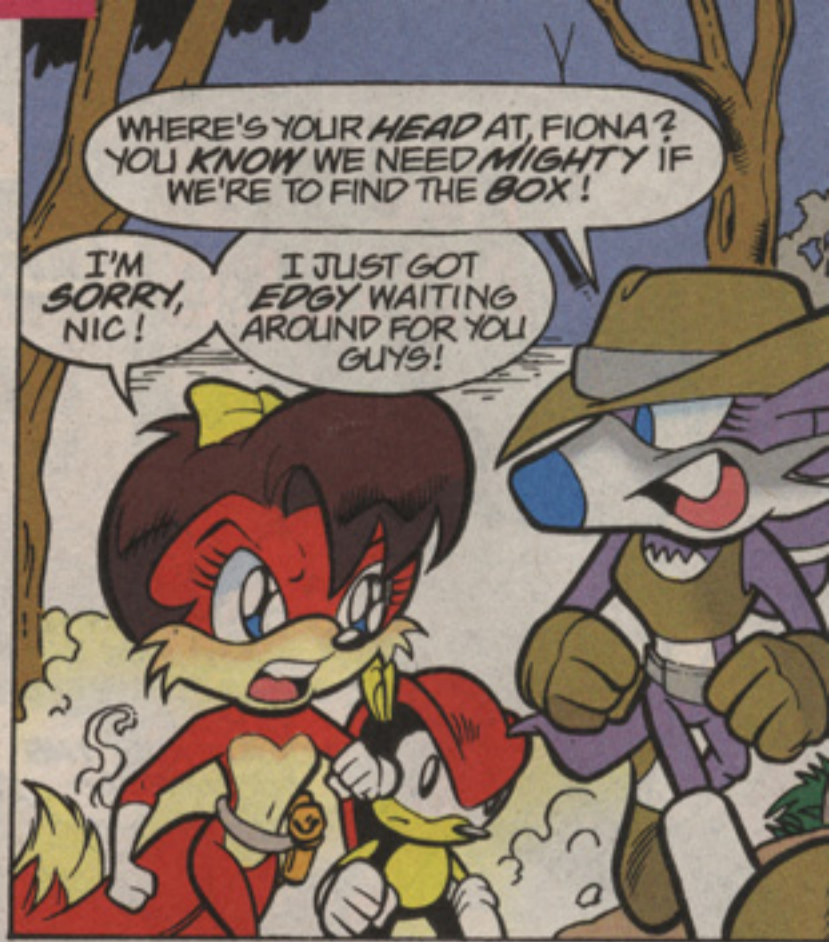
WEVE A LOT
TO DO, AND NOT
MUCH TIME TO DO
IT IN!



WHERE'S YOUR HEAD AT, FIONA?
YOU KNOW WE NEED MIGHTY IF
WE'RE TO FIND THE BOX!

I'M
SORRY,
NIC!

I JUST GOT
EDGY WAITING
AROUND FOR YOU
GUYS!

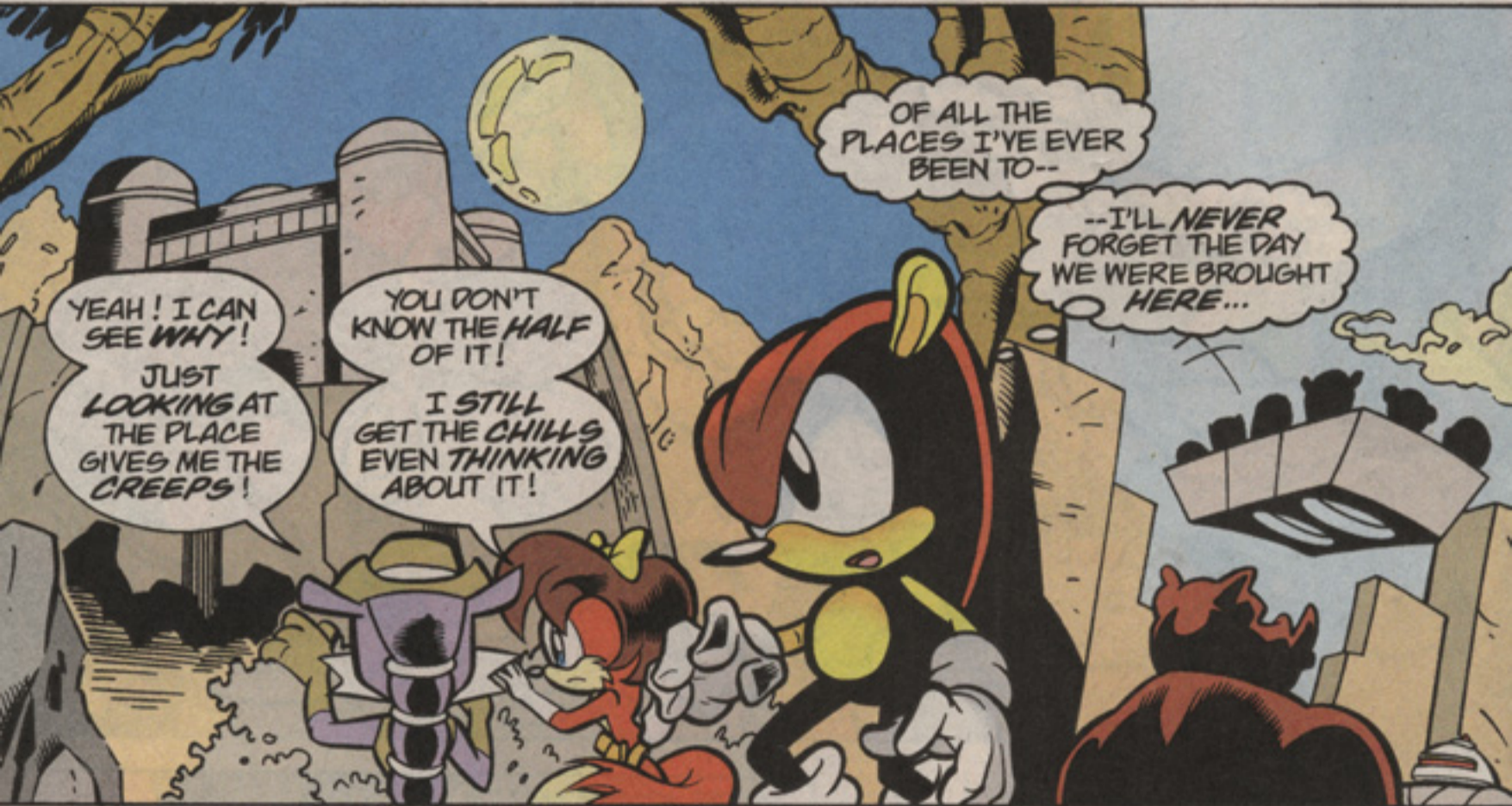


OF ALL THE
PLACES I'VE EVER
BEEN TO--

--I'LL NEVER
FORGET THE DAY
WE WERE BROUGHT
HERE...

YEAH! I CAN
SEE WHY!
JUST
LOOKING AT
THE PLACE
GIVES ME THE
CREEPS!

YOU DON'T
KNOW THE HALF
OF IT!
I STILL
GET THE CHILLS
EVEN THINKING
ABOUT IT!



WE DO NOT TOLERATE
SLACKERS OF ANY KIND!

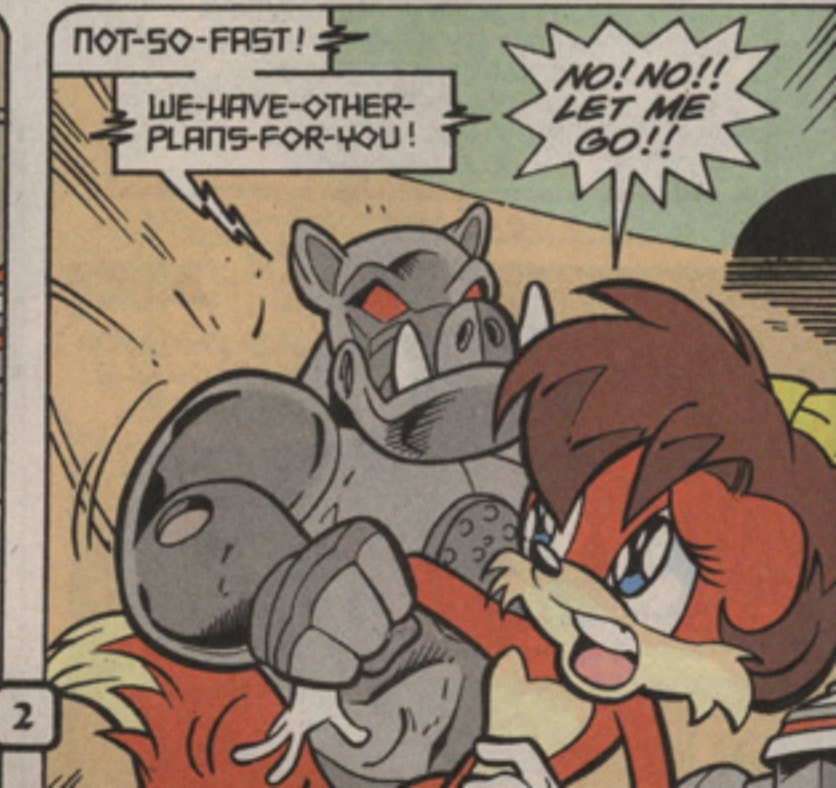
YOU WILL BE
PUT TO WORK
IMMEDIATELY!



NOT SO FAST!

WE HAVE OTHER
PLANS FOR YOU!

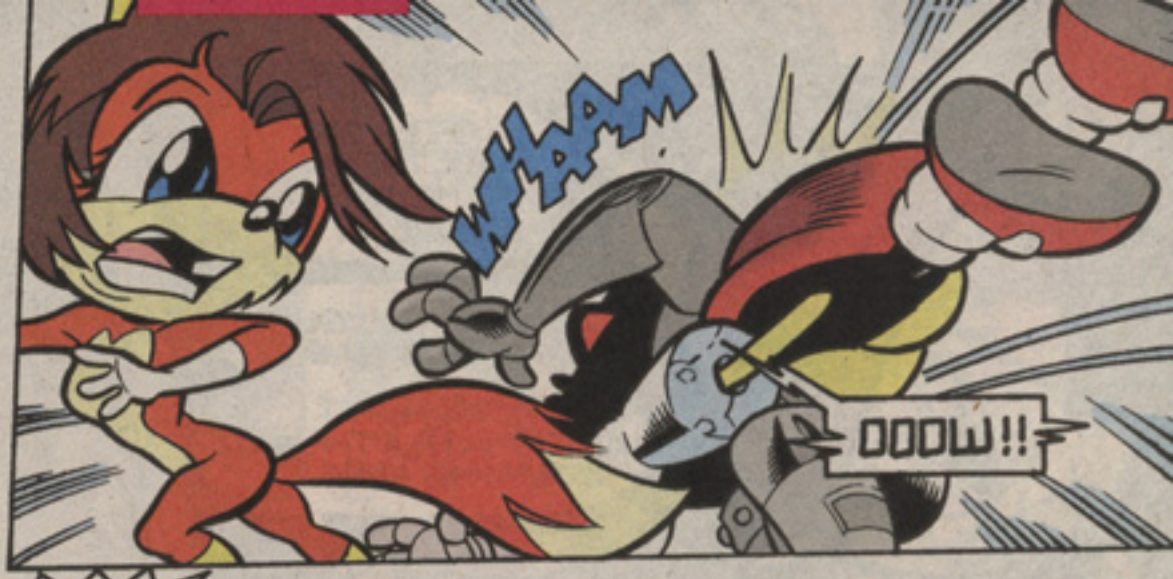
NO! NO!!
LET ME
GO!!



"WITHOUT THINKING, I LUNGED AT THE YARD GUARD..."

YOU HEARD THE LADY, BUB!

LEAVE HER ALONE!



HEY!!

N-N-NO FAIR KICKING AN ARMADILLO WHEN HE'S D-D-DOWN!

THIS DOES NOT COMPUTE!



GUARDS! GUARDS! WHERE ARE THE REINFORCEMENTS?!!

RIGHT HERE--BUT NOT ON YOUR SIDE!

"IN ANY EVENT, WE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE--NOT AT THAT MOMENT..."

DROP-YOUR-WEAPON!

YOU-WILL-ALL-NOW-CEASE-AND-DESIST--

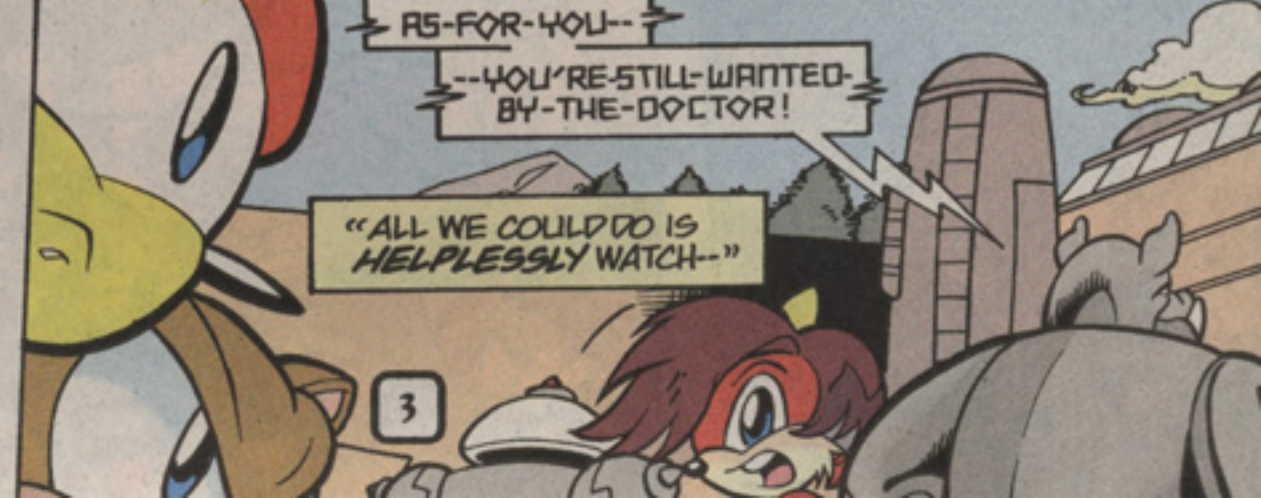
--OR-ELSE-RISK-OBLITERATION!



AS-FOR-YOU--

--YOU'RE STILL WANTED BY THE DOCTOR!

"ALL WE COULD DO IS HELPLESSLY WATCH--"





--AFTER WHICH THEY THREW RAY AND ME INTO THE COOLER! *

HEY, MIGHTY! QUIT DAYDREAMING!
WE WON'T ACCOMPLISH A THING BY STAYING HERE!

*SLANG FOR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT--JUSTIN.



I STILL THINK NOTHING IS WORTH RETURNING HERE FOR!

CAN'T SAY I BLAME MIGHTY, NIC!

I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS MYSELF!



IT'S SPOOKY HOW EVERYTHING IS STILL STANDING--LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED!

THERE'S THE COOLER, AND THE PRISONER BARRACKS BEYOND THAT!

YOU GUYS CAN CHECK OUT THE MAIN BUILDING WHILE I SIT THIS ONE OUT!



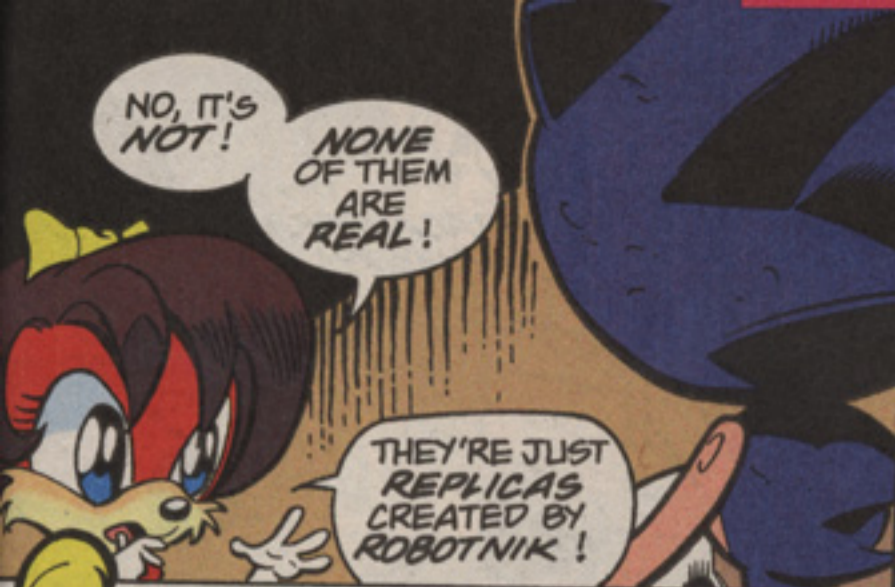
FORGET IT, FIONA! YOU'RE EITHER WITH US ALL THE WAY OR NOT AT ALL!

BESIDES, THERE'S NO ONE BUT US HERE!



OH, YEAH? LOOKS LIKE A FAMILY REUNION TO ME!

LOOK! THERE'S SONIC!



NO, IT'S NOT!

NONE OF THEM ARE REAL!

THEY'RE JUST REPLICAS CREATED BY ROBOTNIK!



WAS THAT THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THIS CAMP--

--BUILDING THESE ROBOTS?

WHICH RAISES AN INTERESTING QUESTION--

"WHILE SITTING ALL ALONE ON THE FLOOR OF MY CELL, I SAW THE BEATEN LIKENESS OF..."



SONIC!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!!

...puff...
...puff...

NEVER MIND!

HERE!

INSERT THAT CARD INTO THE SLOT ON YOUR SHACKLES--



NOW YOU STAND BACK--

--AND SEE WHY THEY CALL ME MIGHTY!



--AND THAT OUGHTTA DO THE TRICK!

K-KLIK!



WHOA!

REMIND ME TO NEVER TICK YOU OFF!



NOW, LET'S FREE RAY!

IXNAY!

WE'RE GONNA DO MORE THAN SAVE A COUPLE OF BUDS!

FOLLOW ME!

"LOOKING AT THIS INANIMATE ROBOT--"



--WAS I DEALING THEN WITH THE REAL SONIC--
--OR WHAT?

THE ROBOTS WERE ONLY A PART OF IT, MIGHTY!
BUT IF THE INFO I FOUND IS CORRECT--



--THIS IS WHERE THE REAL PAYDAY IS!
ABBRACADABRA! WE'RE IN!



WHERE DOES THIS CORRIDOR LEAD TO?

HOPEFULLY, WHAT WE CAME FOR!

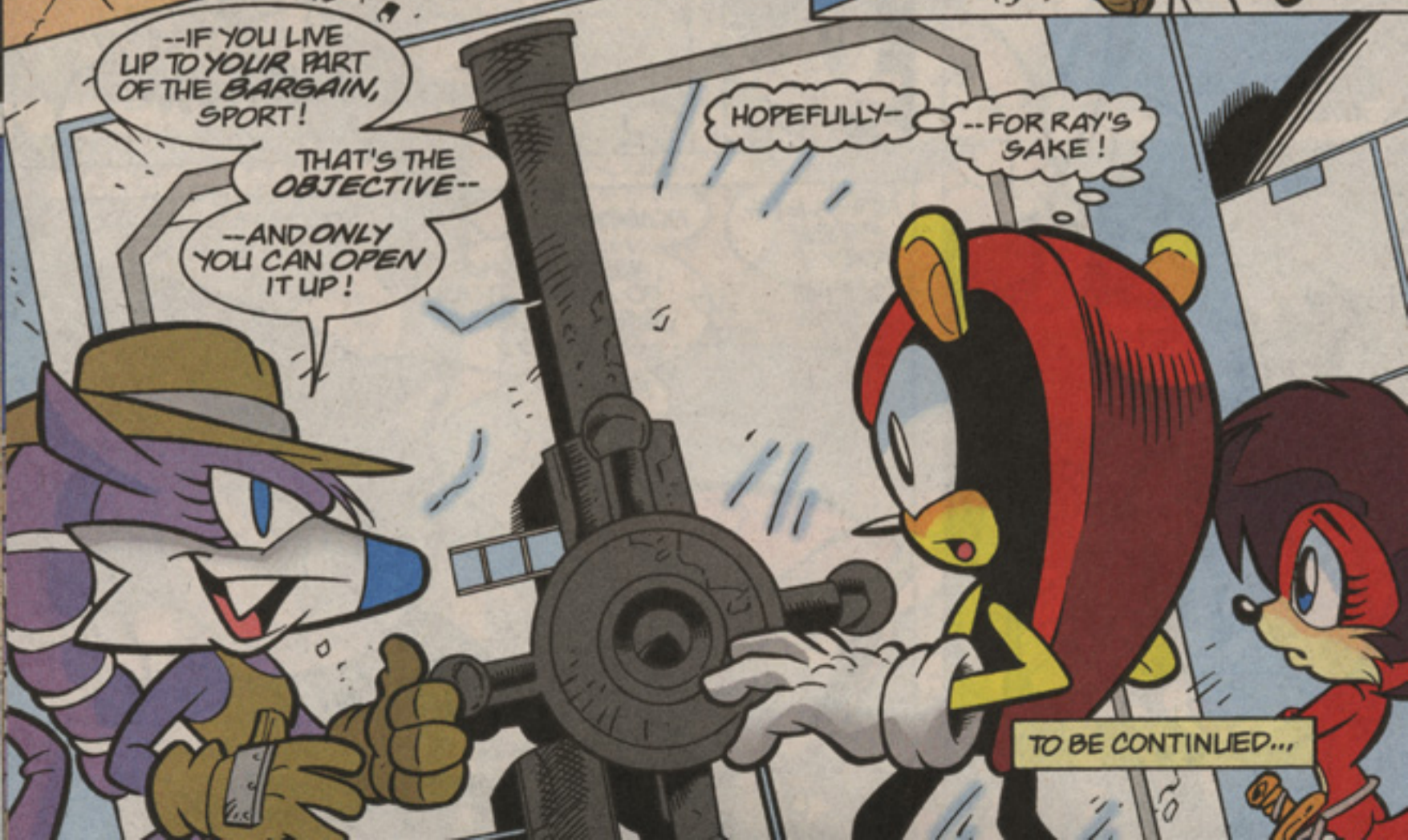
WHAT ABOUT RAY?



I NEVER SAID WE'D FIND HIM HERE!

I ONLY CLAIMED TO KNOW WHERE HE COULD BE FOUND!

THAT IS--



--IF YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN, SPORT!

THAT'S THE OBJECTIVE--

--AND ONLY YOU CAN OPEN IT UP!

HOPEFULLY--

--FOR RAY'S SAKE!

TO BE CONTINUED...